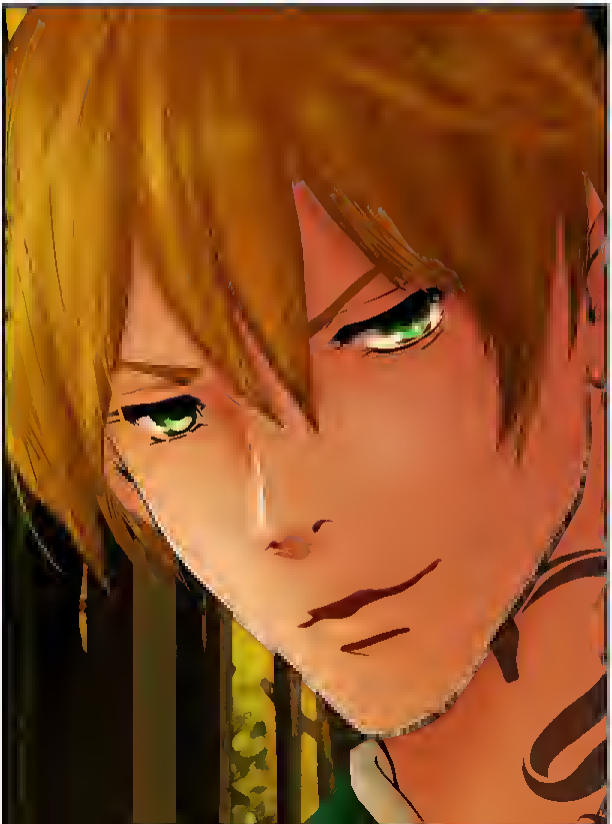
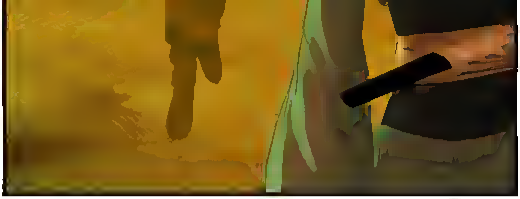
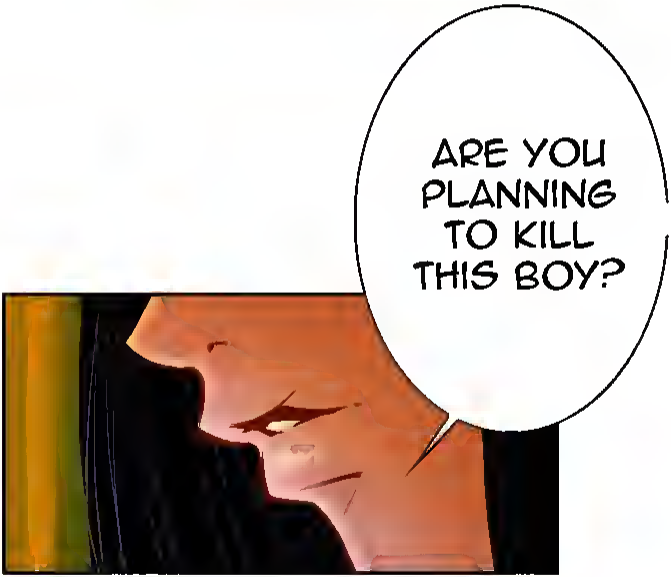
Please have your sound on for this chapter

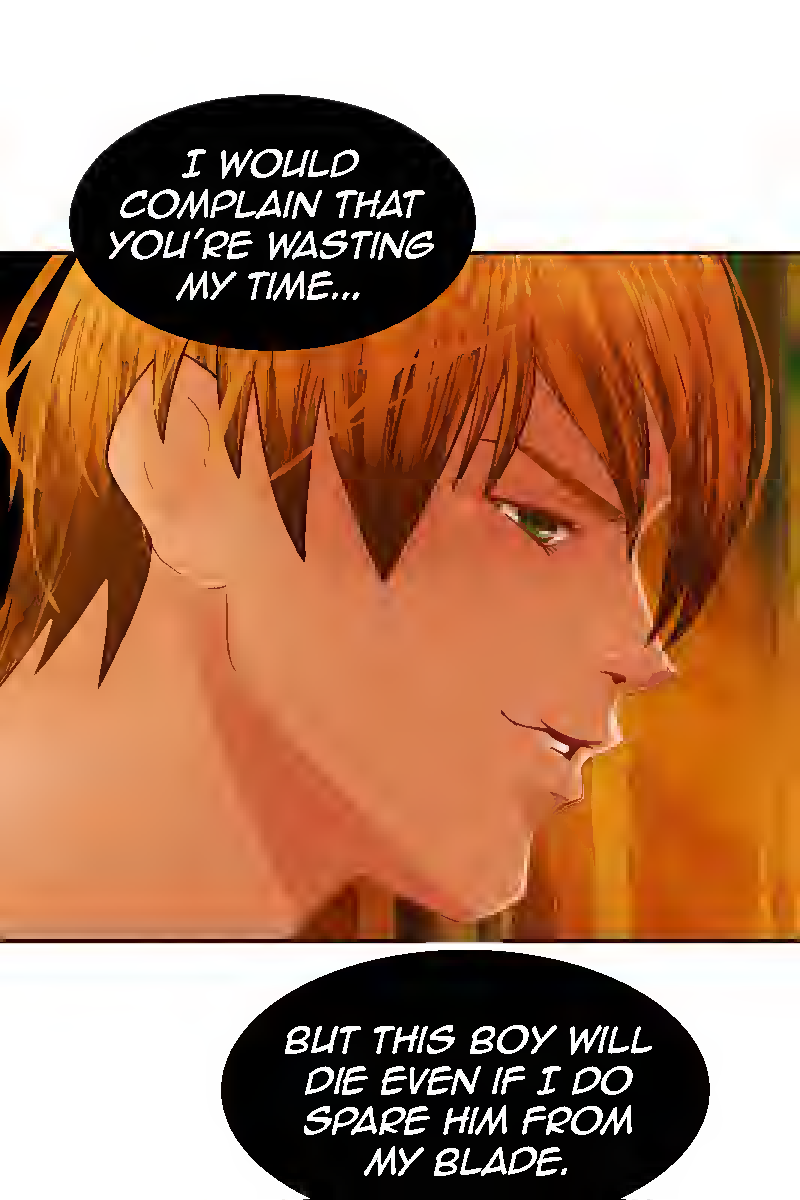


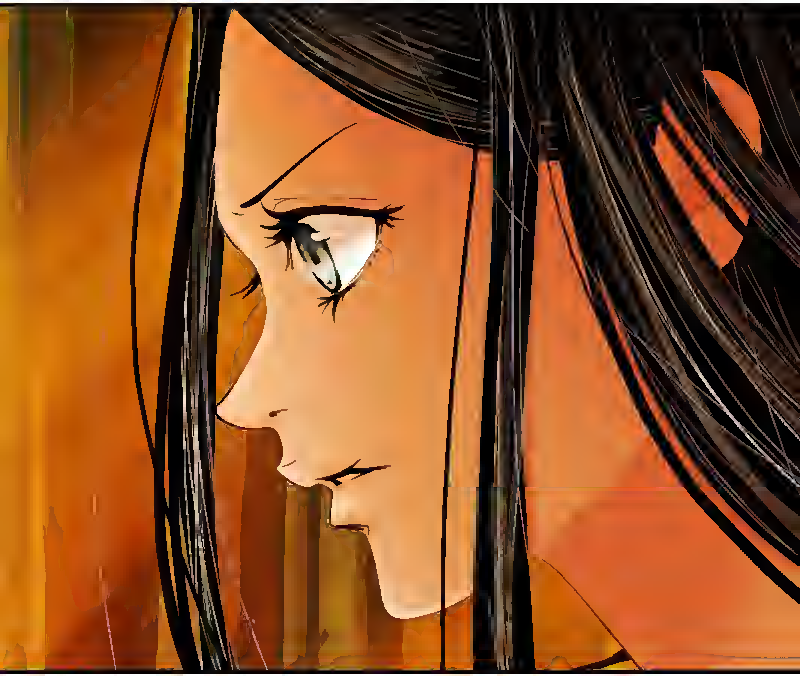
THIS ASSASSIN IS LIKELY GOING TO KILL BOTH OF US IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING.




ARE YOU PLANNING TO KILL THIS BOY?

TSK... A LITTLE TOO INQUISITIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
THIS ISN'T REALLY ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS.


I WOULD COMPLAIN THAT YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME...
BUT THIS BOY WILL DIE EVEN IF I DO SPARE HIM FROM MY BLADE.

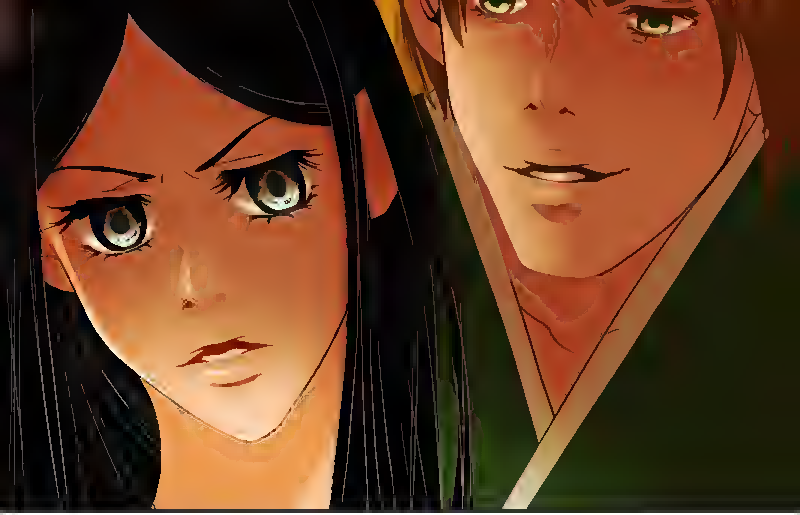


EVEN NOW

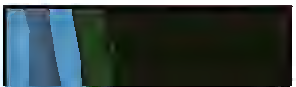
EVEN NOW...

THE POISON WE GAVE TO HIM IS COURSING THROUGH HIS BODY, SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY...

...KILLING HIM.

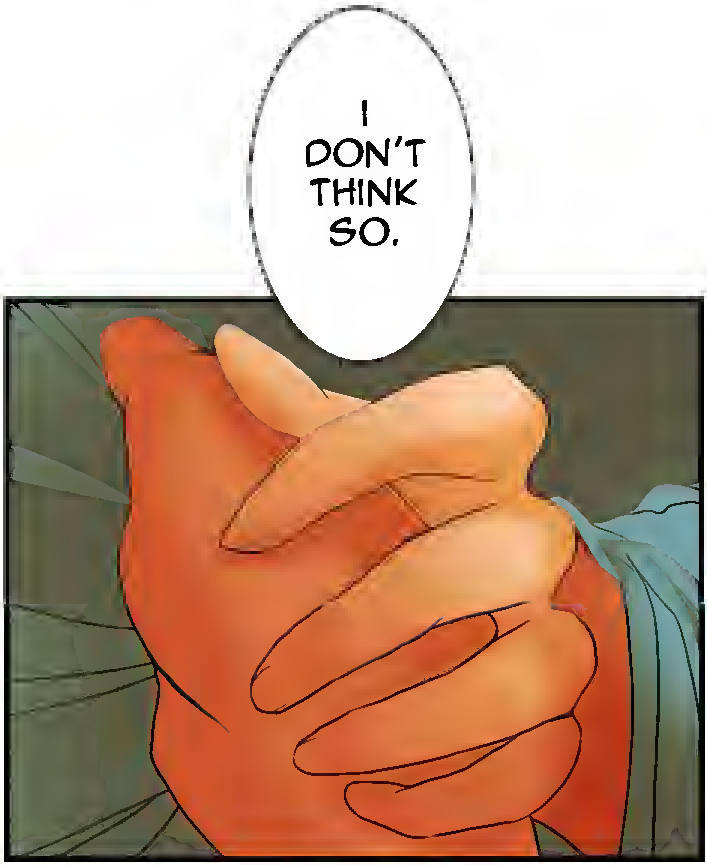


SO... WE'VE GOT TIME, YOU AND I.

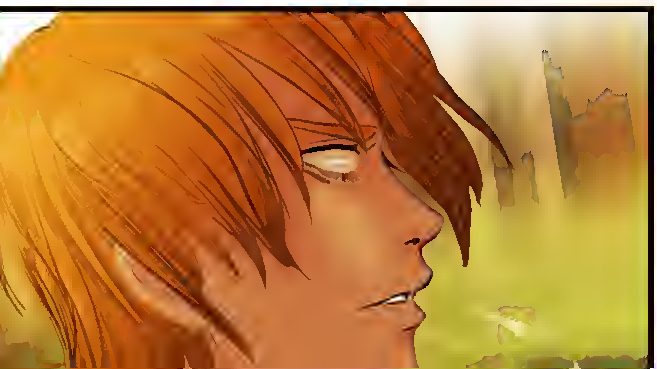


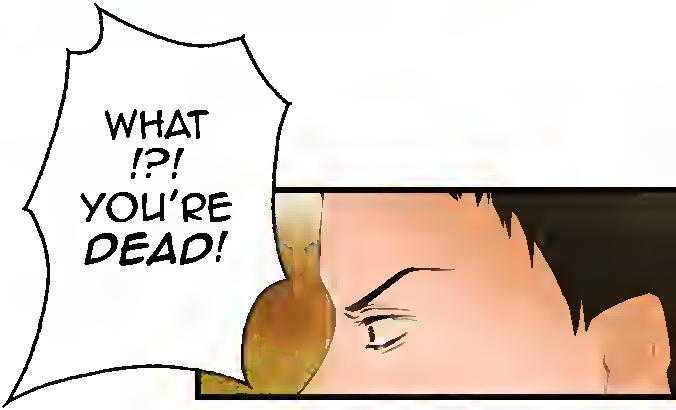
I'LL LET MY COMRADE TAKE CARE OF THE BOY.

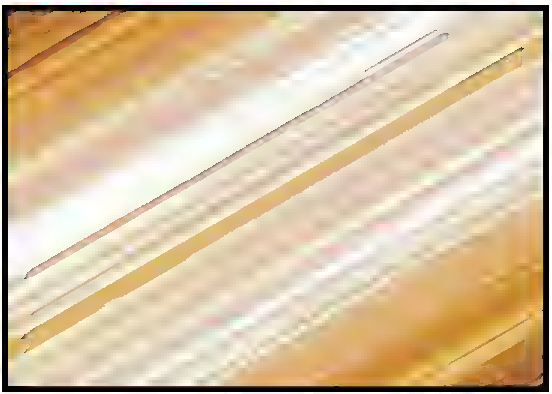
AND YOU AND I... WELL...
LET'S GET THINGS STARTED, SHALL WE?

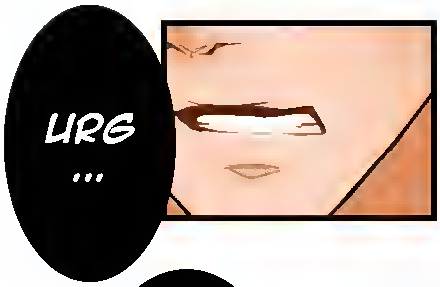

I DON'T THINK SO.

?!!

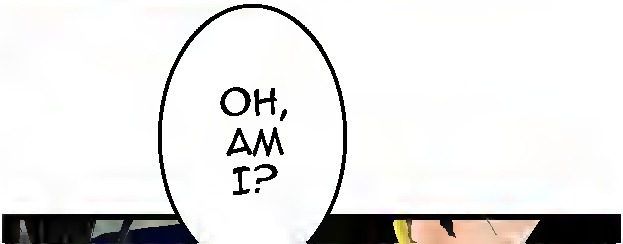



WHAT
!?!
YOU'RE
DEAD!




URG
...

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT.

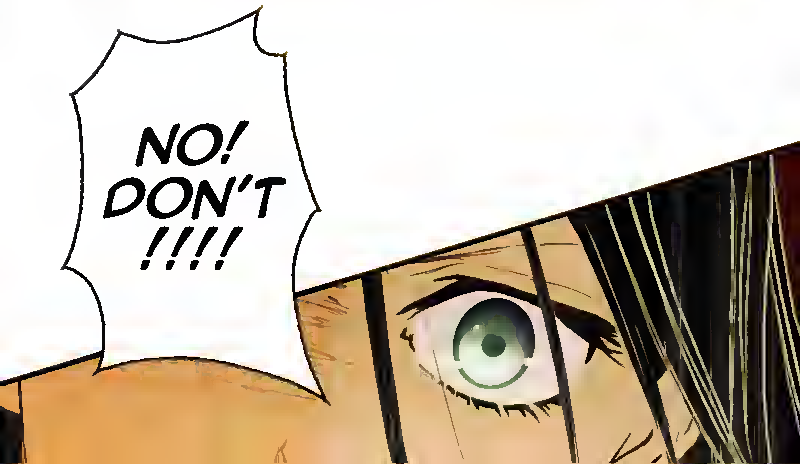

OH, AM I?

EVEN IF I DO DIE, I WILL BRING YOU DOWN WITH ME.
TWISTED

INSOLENT
WENCH.

WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN YOUR EYES OFF THE PRIZE...?

OH NO!
THE
BOY!


NO!
DON'T
!!!!

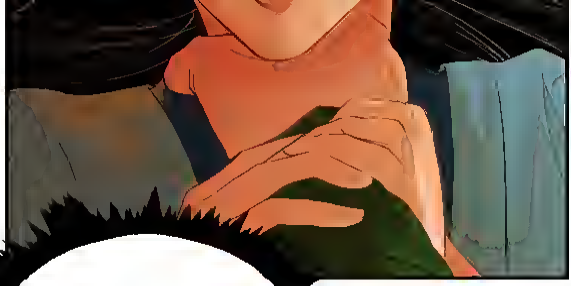
NOW, NOW...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.

JURO, COME FINISH HER OFF!

AND YOU HONESTLY THOUGHT YOU COULD FIGHT A TRAINED ASSASSIN ?!

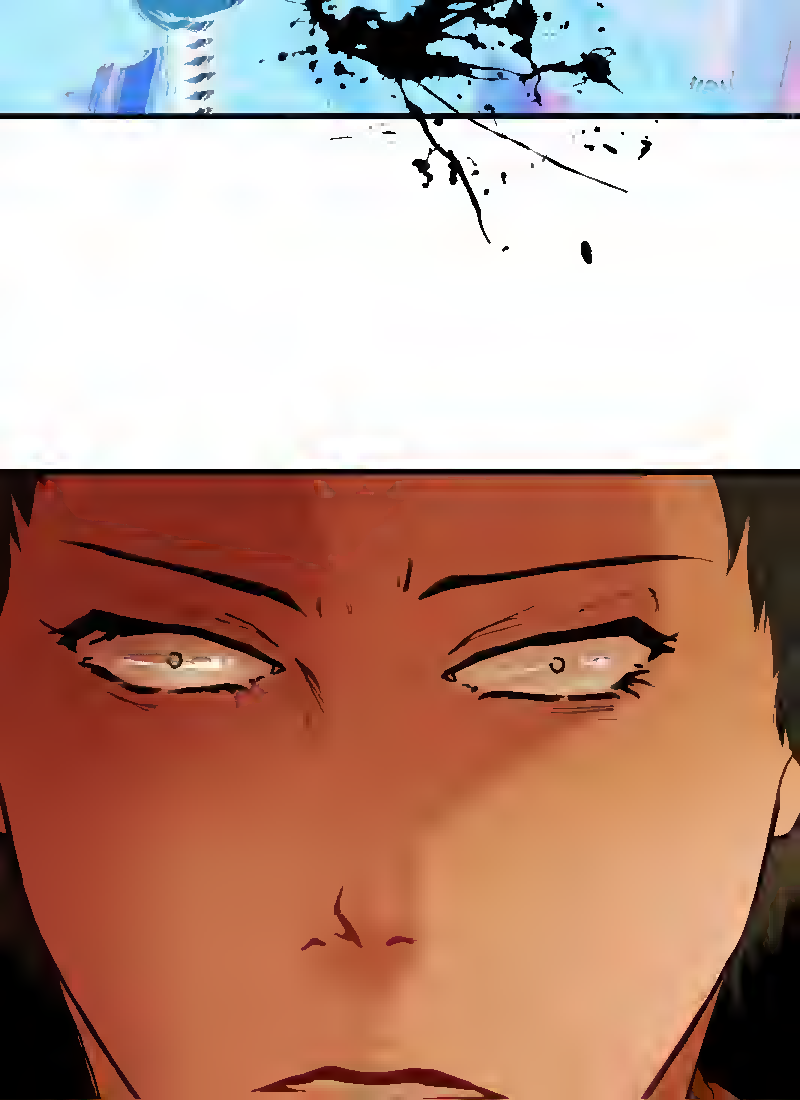
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH !!!


I CAN'T BREATHE!

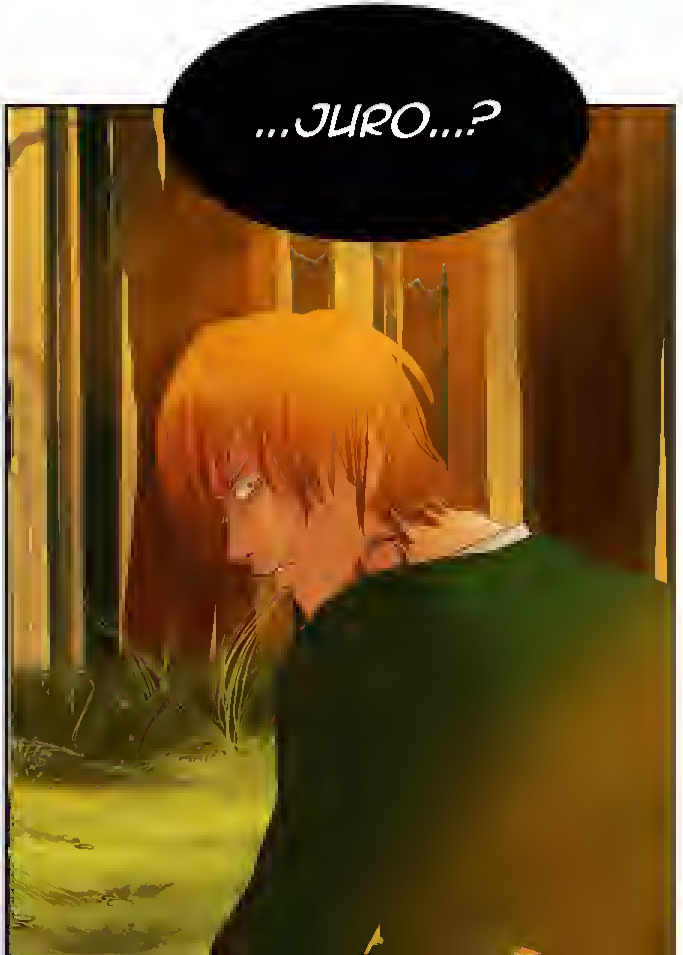
JURO, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

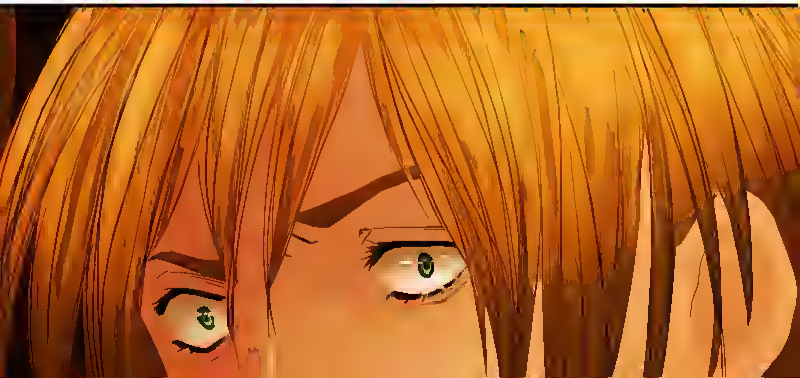
HOLD HER STILL!

YOU CAN'T TAKE US BOTH, WOMAN!



...NNGH...
...WHAT JUST...


...JURO...?



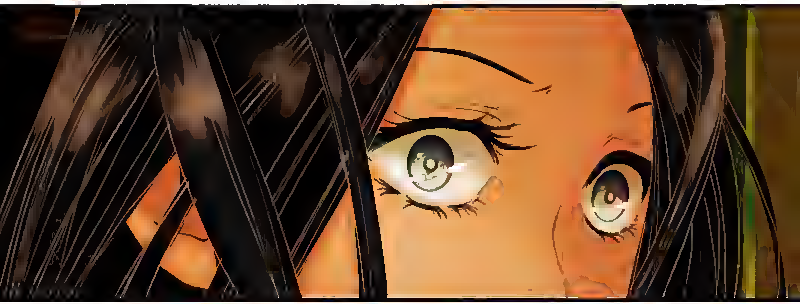
....
GENERAL
....
?!!

AN ARCHER ?!
IS IT ANOTHER ASSASSIN ?!

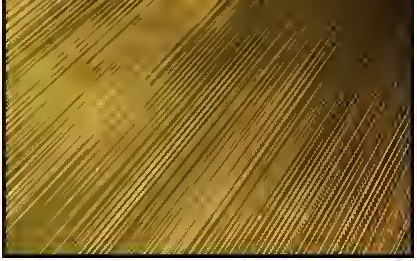
Ba

Bump
IS HE HERE TO KILL US ALL?!

AGHH
!!!

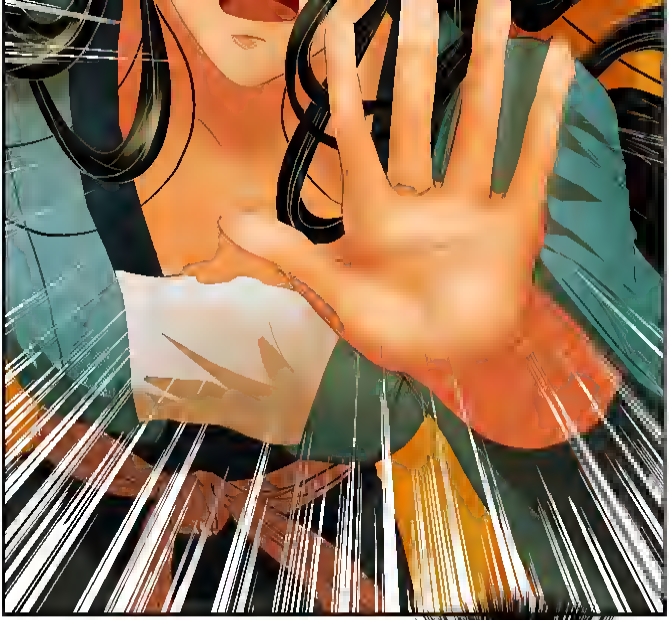


HE'S BEEN SHOT TOO!?!



IS HE GOING TO KILL THE BOY ?!!

NO! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT !!!

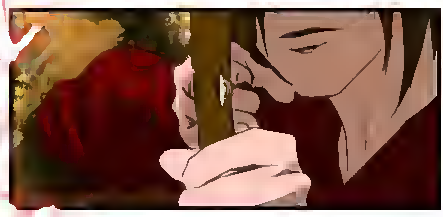

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!!!

PLEASE, STOP !!!

HE ISN'T
SLOWING DOWN!

ba
bmp
ba
bmp

MY FEET WON'T MOVE.



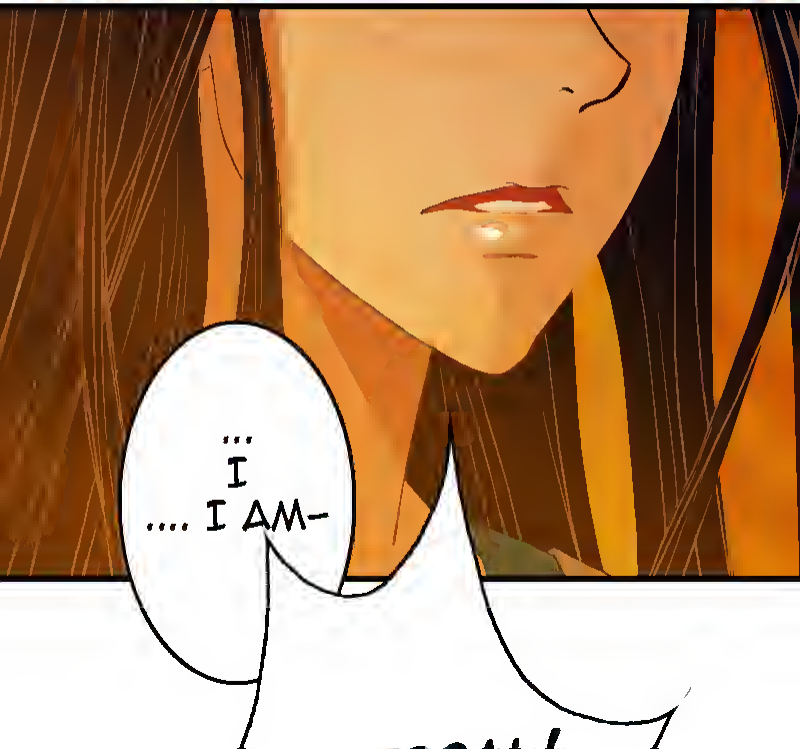
ba
bmp

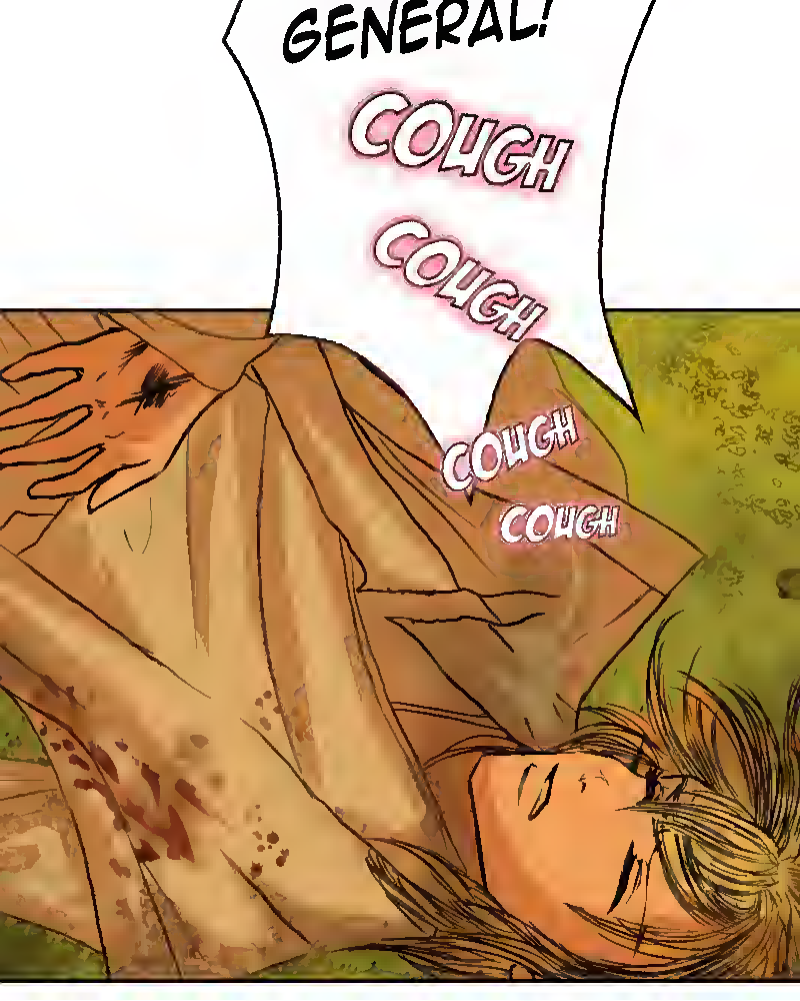
ba
bmp

HE ISN'T SHOOTING.

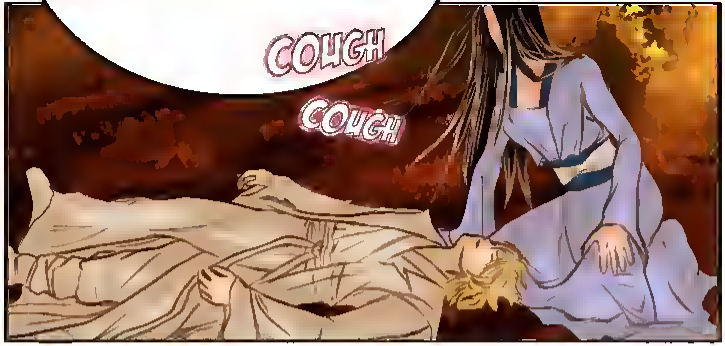
...AM I SAFE...?

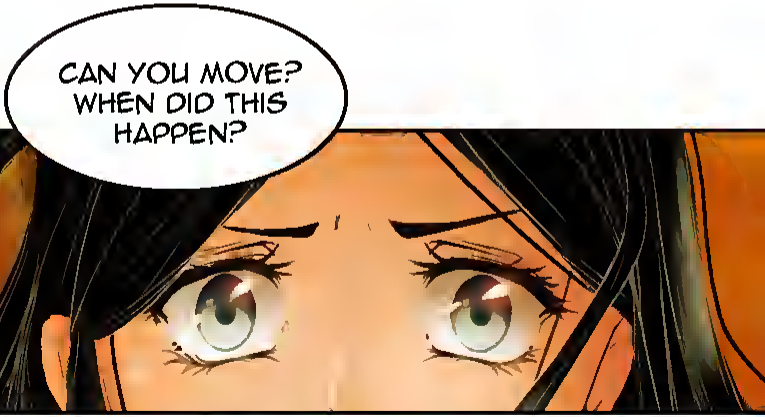
WHO ARE YOU ?


...
I
.... I AM-


GENERAL!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

...I'VE BEEN POISONED...!


COUGH
COUGH


CAN YOU MOVE? WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

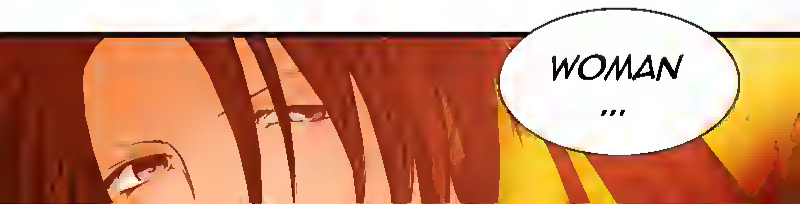
...JUST BARELY...

COUGH

COUGH

...IT'S BEEN A FEW HOURS NOW..

IT'S LIKELY CAROMYNTH HERB... YOU LOOK SO PALE. IF I HURRY I CAN SAVE YOU.



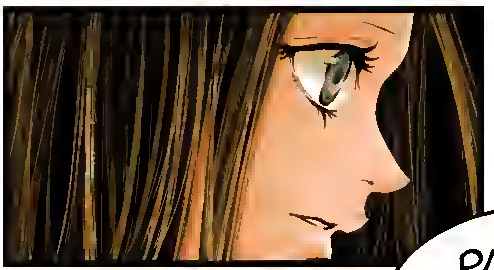
ARE YOU A PHYSICIAN?

I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT MEDICINE... BUT I'D NEED SUPPLIES TO HELP HIM.

THERE ARE SUPPLIES AT THE PALACE TO AID YOU.

OUR COURT PHYSICIAN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED TO RETURN TO THE PALACE. THOUGH I DOUBT HE WILL RETURN IN TIME.

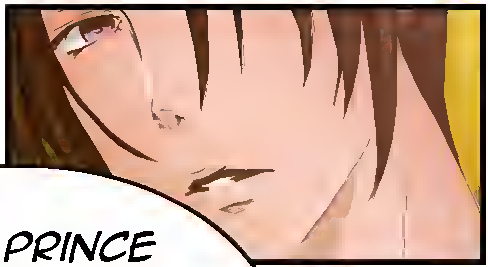
PERHAPS YOU CAN DELAY THE POISON LONG ENOUGH UNTIL THE PHYSICIAN RETURNS.



PALACE?! COURT

PHYSICIAN?

WHO IS THIS BOY?!



HE IS PRINCE OSAMU, YOUNGER BROTHER TO **KING ASUKAI KATSU.**

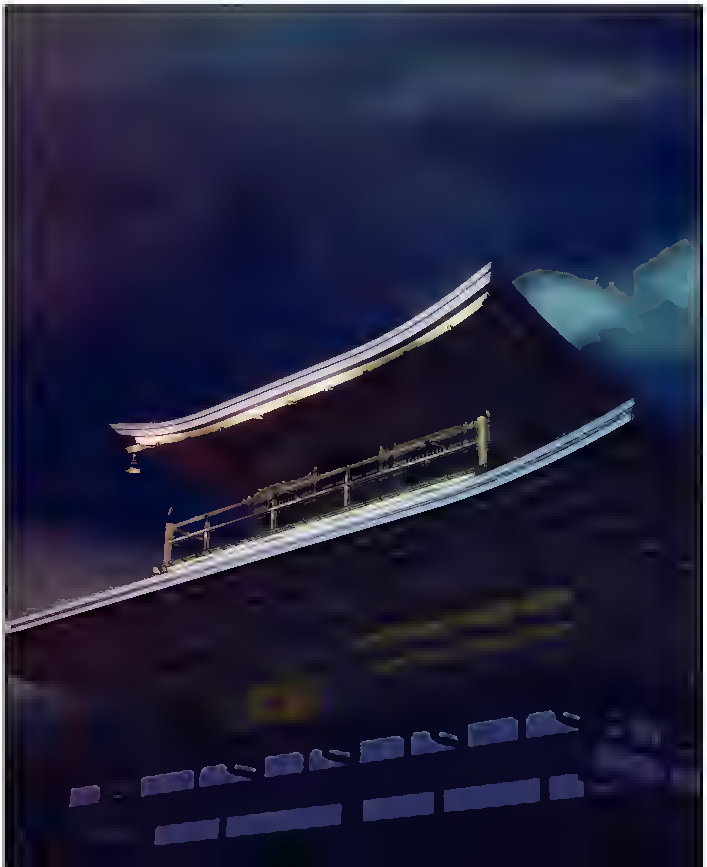
ASUKAI KATSU?
THE BLOOD KING ...?!

THE BLOOD KING IS THE MOST FEARSOME, MERCILESS KING OUR COUNTRY HAS SEEN IN CENTURIES.

HE IS UNDEFEATED IN BATTLE, RUTHLESS TO HIS ENEMIES, AND HAS SLAIN COUNTLESS FOES.

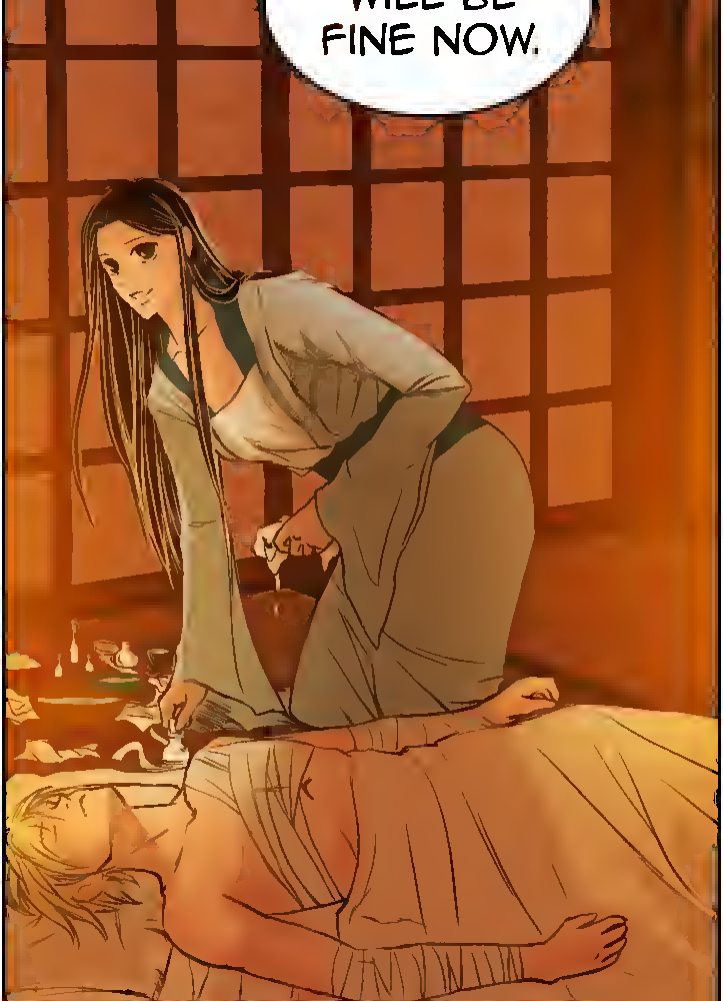
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL
BECOME OF ME IF I FAIL.

HURRY, PHYSICIAN. WE MUST GET TO THE PALACE QUICKLY.

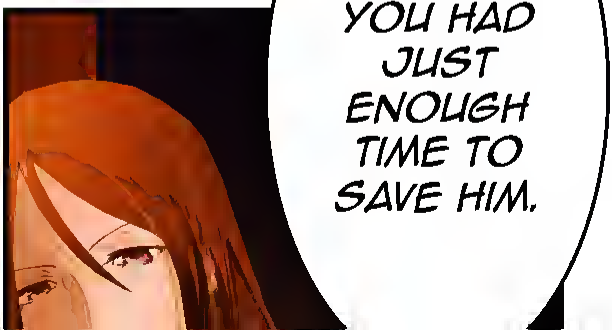


HOW IS HIS CONDITION ?

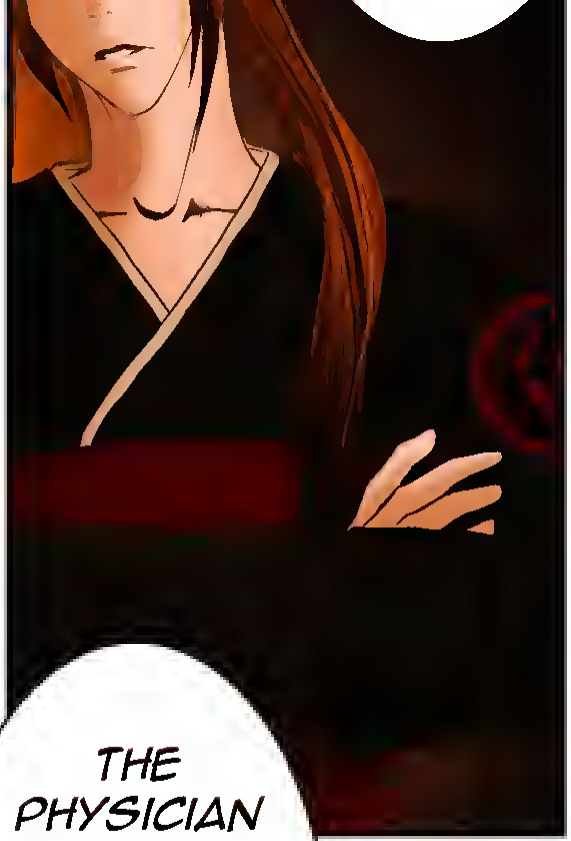
...WILL HE LIVE?
YES, HE


WILL BE
FINE NOW.

ALL HE NEEDS IS REST AND WATER IN THE MEANTIME.



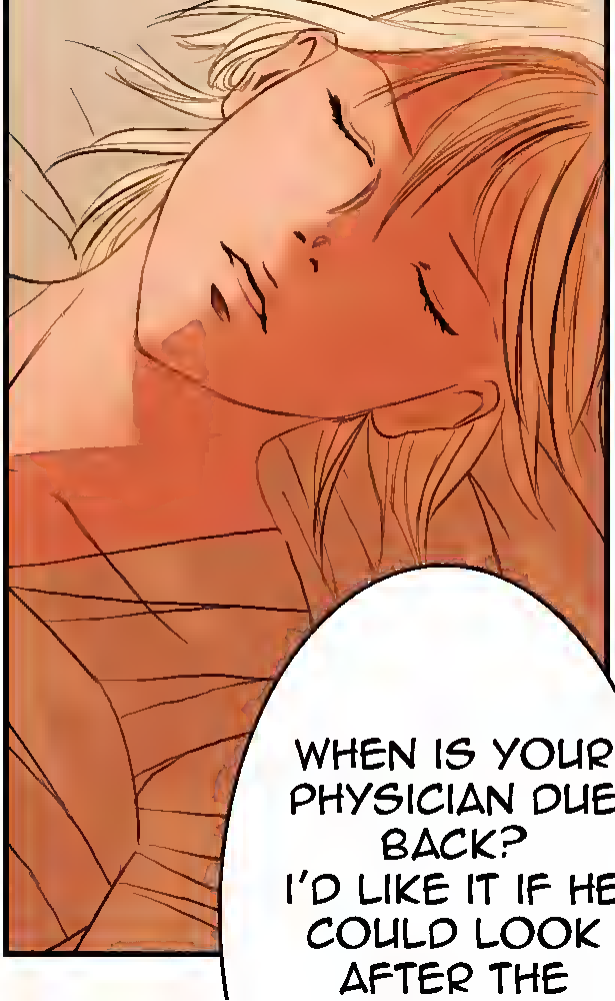
IT SEEMS YOU HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE HIM.



THE PHYSICIAN WOULD BE IMPRESSED WITH YOUR

MEDICINAL KNOWLEDGE.

YES, IT WAS LUCKY. I'M RELIEVED HE IS OKAY.


WHEN IS YOUR PHYSICIAN DUE BACK?
I'D LIKE IT IF HE COULD LOOK AFTER THE

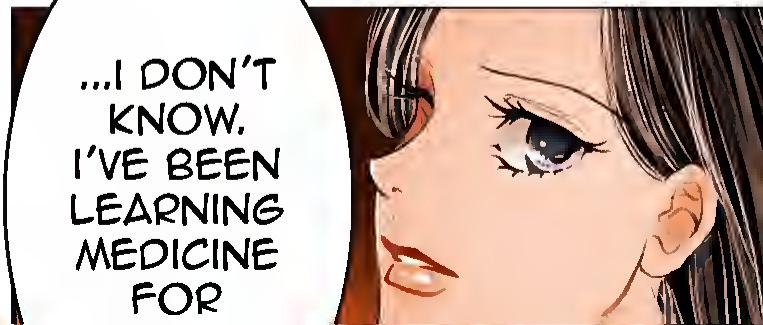
PRINCE IN MY ABSENCE.

I'M NOT SURE. NO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF.

I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH HOW YOU WOULD KNOW THE PRECISE ANTIDOTE FOR HIS POISON.

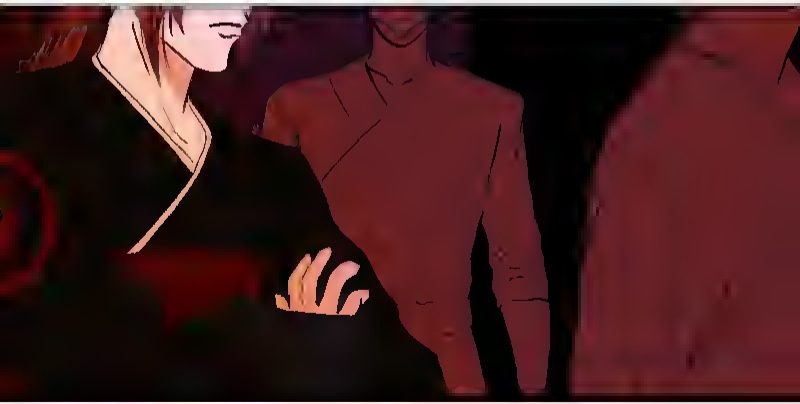
HOW

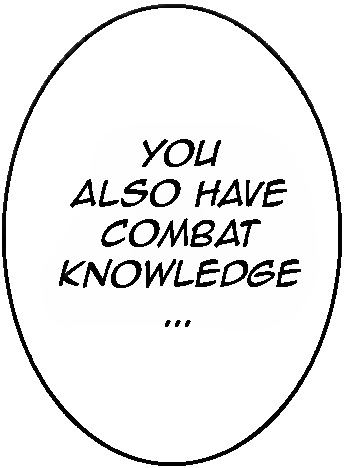
...HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

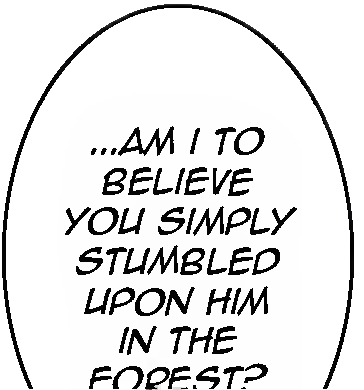


YEARS.

...IS HE ACCUSING ME OF SOMETHING??



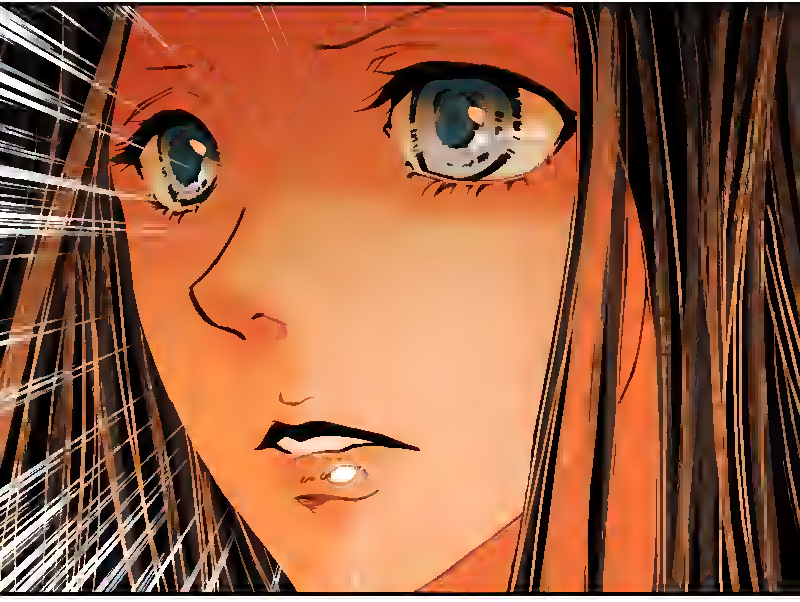

YOU
ALSO HAVE
COMBAT
KNOWLEDGE
...

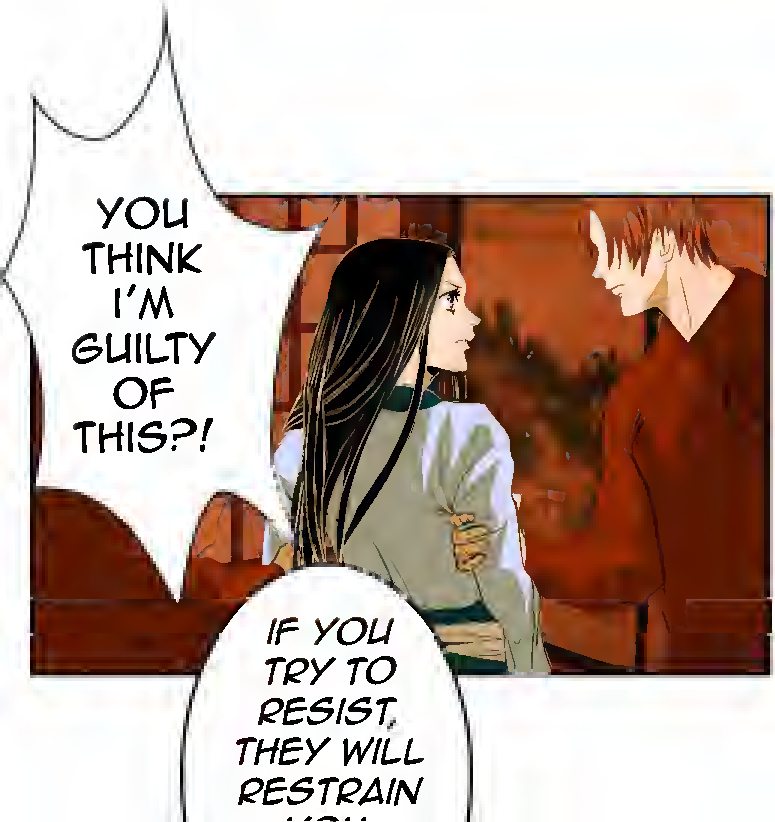

...AM I TO
BELIEVE
YOU SIMPLY
STUMBLED
UPON HIM
IN THE
FOREST?

FOR THE ATTEMPTED MURDER

OF PRINCE OSAMU...

...YOU ARE BEING PLACED UNDER ARREST.

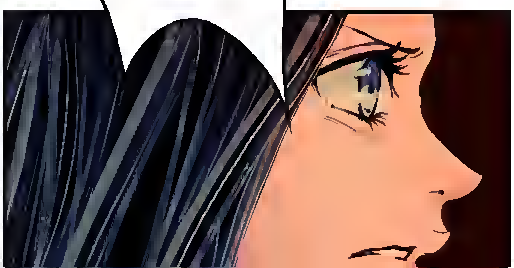



YOU THINK I'M GUILTY OF THIS?!
IF YOU TRY TO RESIST, THEY WILL RESTRAIN

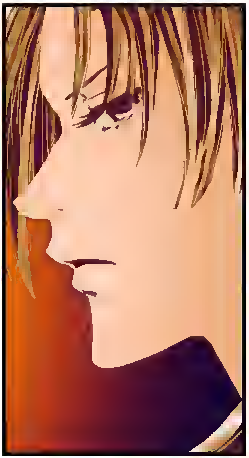
YOU. COME QUIETLY.

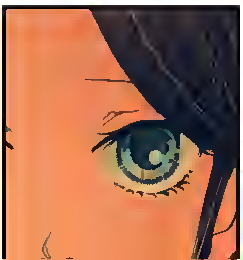
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THIS BOY WAS THE PRINCE!

I JUST SAVED HIS LIFE! HOW COULD YOU ACCUSE ME?!



RELEASE HER.





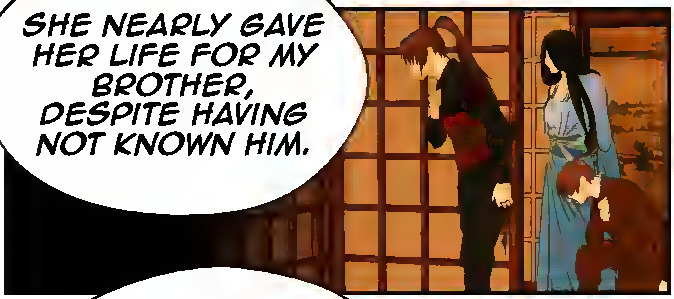
YOUR MAJESTY, KING ASUKAI.

GENERAL SHIBISAKI ... THERE IS NO NEED FOR THIS.

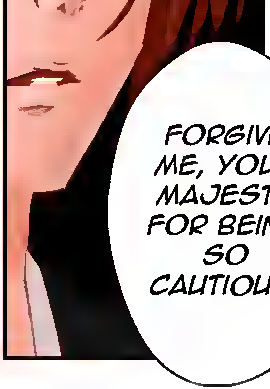
BOW BEFORE THE KING, PEASANT.

LEAVE HER BE.

SHE NEARLY GAVE HER LIFE FOR MY BROTHER, DESPITE HAVING NOT KNOWN HIM.

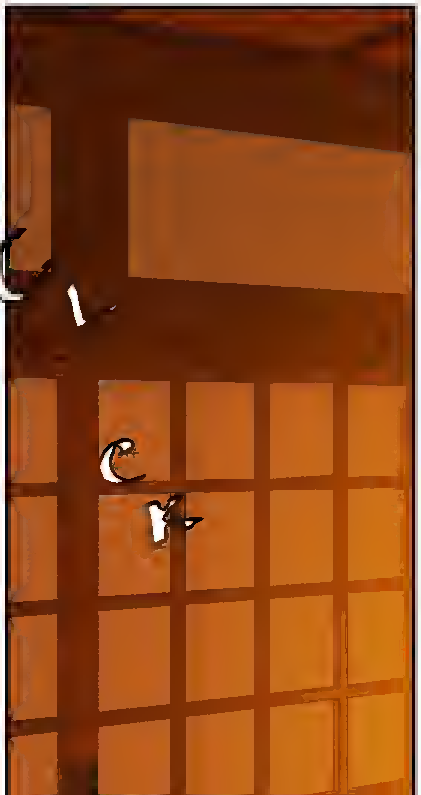


I MAY NOT KNOW WHO POISONED HIM, BUT I KNOW SHE IS INNOCENT.



LEAVE US. I WISH TO SPEAK TO THE PHYSICIAN ALONE.

WISH.



OH NO...
I'M LEFT ALONE WITH THE BLOOD KING?!

...WHAT AM I STILL DOING STANDING?!

I SHOULD BOW.

...WHY DOES HE WANT TO SPEAK TO ME ALONE...?
...WHAT IF I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?

I'VE HEARD THAT HE KILLS ON A WHIM, WITHOUT HESITATION.

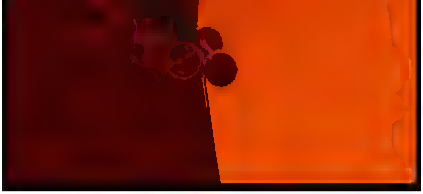
...AND I'M SURE THIS ISN'T TRUE, BUT...

...IT'S ALSO BEEN SAID...

...THAT IF YOUR EYES MEET HIS, HE'LL POSSESS YOUR SOUL.

...I WONDER WHAT SUCH EYES MUST LOOK LIKE.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, MAIDEN?

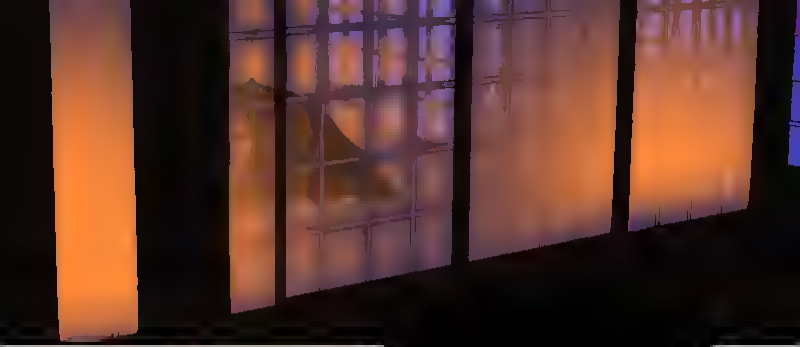


SURPRISING...
HIS VOICE ISN'T AS HAGGARD AND FRIGHTENING AS I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE...

MY NAME IS KIHARA MEI, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THANK YOU, MISS KIHARA FOR SAVING MY BROTHER AS YOU DID...

I AM INDEBTED TO YOU.



IT IS MY INTENTION ...

...THAT YOU WOULD REMAIN HERE IN THE PALACE.

WHAT?

MEAN FOR ME TO STAY HERE IN THE PALACE?

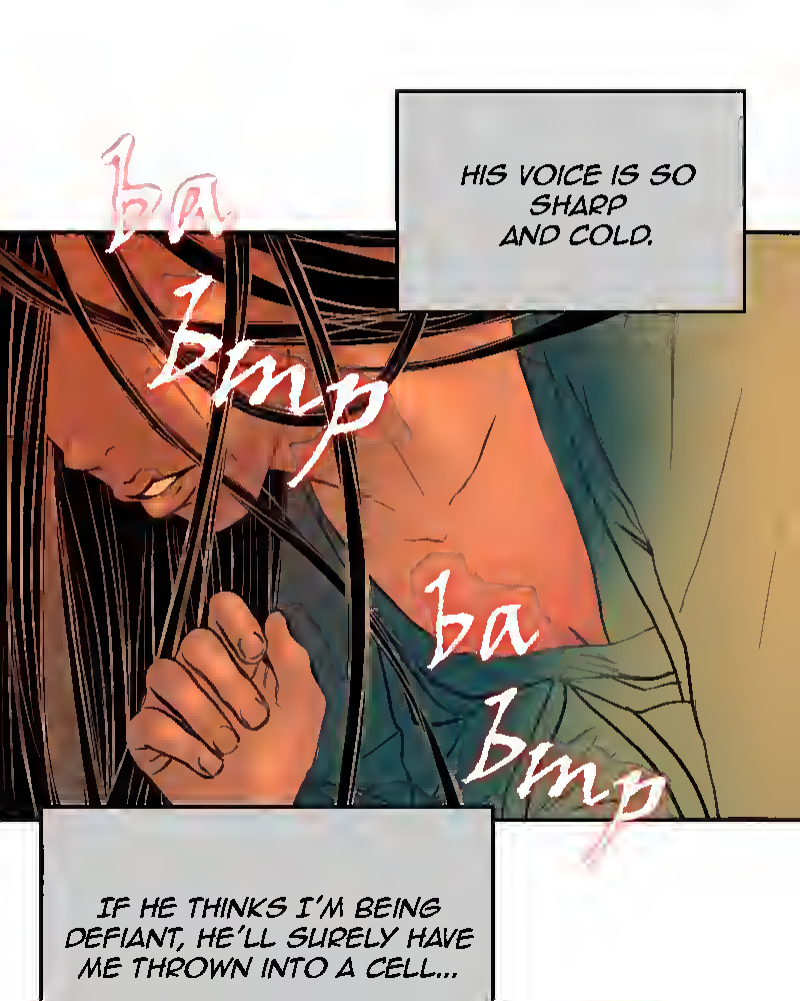
I COULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. MAYBE IF I JUST PLAY DUMB...

AH... IT'S ALREADY QUITE DARK OUTSIDE...

THE ROADS WILL BE CUMBERSOME AT THIS LATER HOUR, AS YOU KNOW...
SO GLAD PRINCE OSAMU IS FEELING WELL.

BE SURE HE GETS PLENTY OF REST THIS EVENING TO BE AT FULL HEALTH-
YOU WISH TO LEAVE?

Ba


HIS VOICE IS SO SHARP AND COLD.
ba bmp
ba bmp
IF HE THINKS I'M BEING DEFIANT, HE'LL SURELY HAVE ME THROWN INTO A CELL...

...OR FAR WORSE.

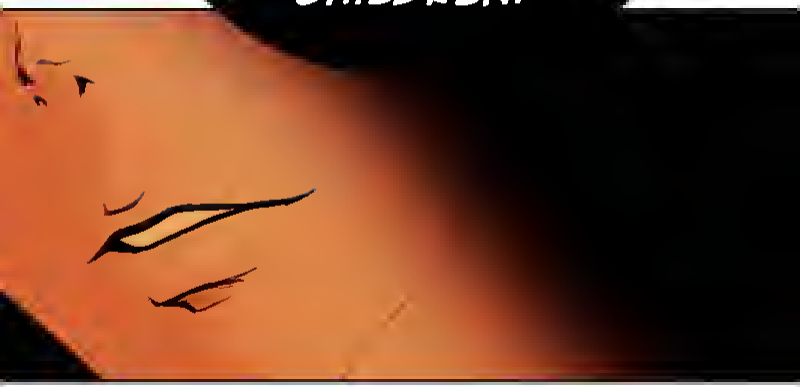
I'M SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY...

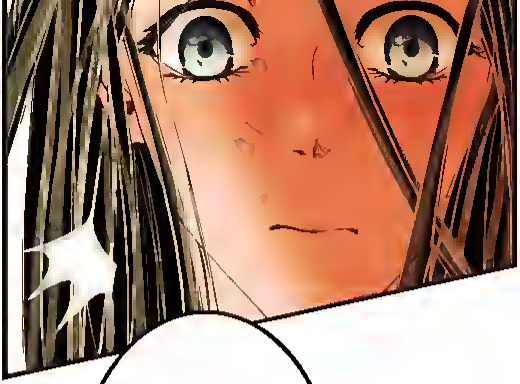
I WILL DO AS YOU REQUIRE.

I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MY FAMILY. THEY RELY ON ME.

FAMILY?

...SO YOUNG, AND YOU ALREADY HAVE A HUSBAND AND CHILDREN?





N-
NO...!

I'VE
NOT YET
ENTERED
INTO ANY
SORT OF
COURT
-SHIP.

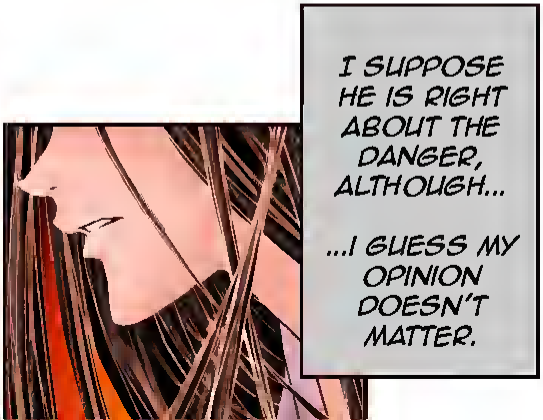
...I

MEANT MY PARENTS AND MY BROTHER.

HOWEVER... I CAN'T THOUGHTLESSLY DISMISS YOU TO TRAVEL THE ROADS ALONE AT NIGHT. IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS.

STAY HERE FOR THE EVENING AND THEN YOU MAY LEAVE FREELY IN THE MORNING.

WHAT?


I SUPPOSE HE IS RIGHT ABOUT THE DANGER, ALTHOUGH...
...I GUESS MY OPINION DOESN'T MATTER.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL HE'S GOING TO LET ME LEAVE, EVEN IF IT ISN'T RIGHT NOW.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE AND I'LL SEND FOR A

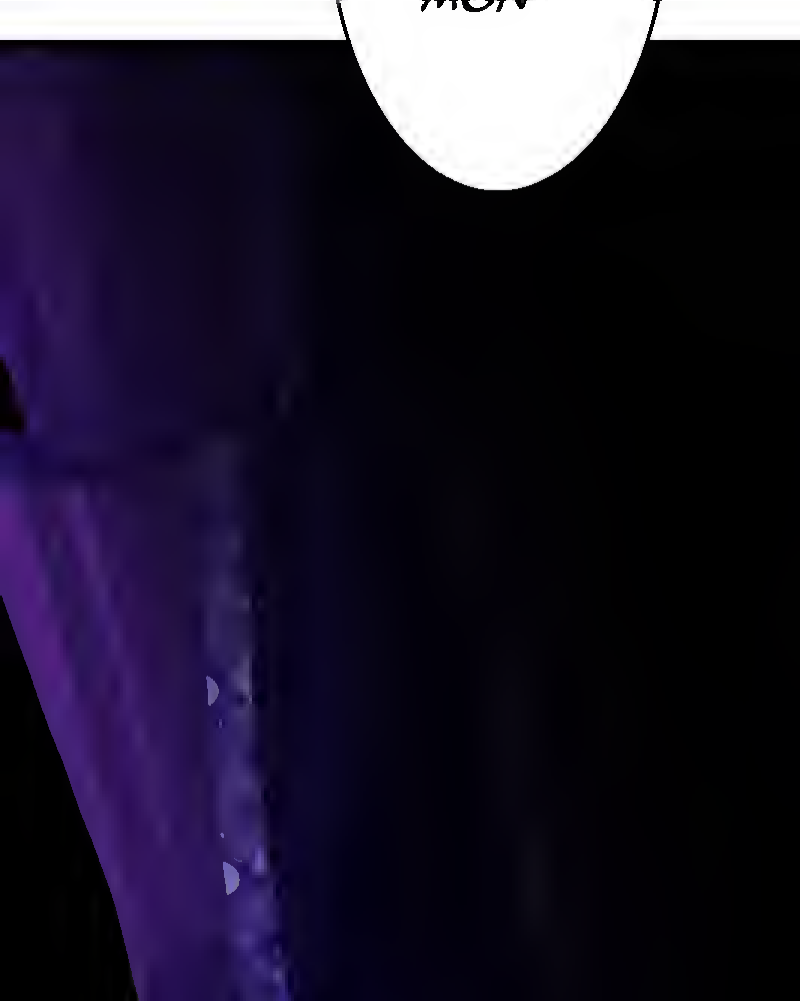
MESSENGER TO ESCORT YOU TO YOUR TEMPORARY QUARTERS.

HAVE A GOOD REST, MISS KIHARA.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

GOOD-
NIGHT.

FINALLY
...



...NOW THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.

@LIFELIGHTCOMICS

@LIFELIGHT_COMICS

NAME OF THE SONG·

TRACK 3
<Beauty and the King>

Background music by

@KennyComics